



# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

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### REGULATIONS GOVERNING TRANSPORTATION, ACCESS TO CONSERVATION AREAS IN ALASKA PUBLISHED

The Department of the Interior has published its final rules governing the process for review and approval of transportation and utility systems in and several forms of access to areas within national parks, wildlife refuges, conservation areas, national recreation areas, and other federal conservation system units in Alaska. In addition, the rules govern general access across and into conservation system units, as well as access to in-holdings. The rules, published in the September 4, 1986, Federal Register, pertain to lands administered by the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Land Management.

According to Bill Horn, Interior's Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, "These rules provide a mechanism by which these federal lands can be used to meet the needs of Alaskans, while at the same time preserving their conservation values. Moreover, they fulfill the promises made to Alaskans that ANILCA would not interfere unduly with traditional uses or adversely affect the access rights to millions of acres of State and private lands within parks, refuges, and wilderness areas."

The regulations implement provisions of Title XI of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) concerning transportation and utility systems that cross any portion of a conservation system unit. These regulations also establish procedures and a permit system to obtain federal approval for such uses. Examples of a transportation or utility system include pipelines, electrical transmission corridors, site locations for communication links such as microwave stations, and improved roads or highways.

In reaching a decision on issuing a permit, the responsible agency will consider, among other things, the effect of the transportation and utility system on the purposes for which the conservation unit was established or designated.

Not affected by these rules is the use of aircraft, motorboats, snowmobiles, and non-motorized means of surface transportation for traditional activities and travel to and from villages and homesites. Restrictions to this use can be accomplished only by future regulations which require hearings in the local area and a showing of resource impacts.

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These rules also ensure adequate and feasible access to valid in-holdings within areas will be provided.

For additional information concerning these regulations, contact:

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